



January 2017

Studying with Dyslexia

Dyslexia is usually diagnosed before studying at university. Many students with dyslexia report that they went through years of therapy. It is a learning disability which is hardly “visible” and measurable, and therefore difficult to comprehend its impact. Reading up on an expert clarification before starting your studies is recommended: <http://www.verband-dyslexie.ch/index.php/erwachsene-mit-legasthenie-oder-dyskalkulie> (available in German).

The impact of dyslexia on studying and required support are different for everyone. These will be clarified at the Disability Office- see attachment.

How Lecturers Can Support

When asked, please take some time for a meeting with students.

In the Lecture/Seminar

- Clear guidelines and structures are important. Provide an overview of a session and emphasize this in respective situations; help students to orient themselves using a detailed syllabus and make it available on OLAT.
- Using technical support (blackboard, overhead projector, Power point presentation, etc.) to visualize what is taught, or when applicable writing down new terms or foreign words legibly is proven to be helpful.
- Avoid using complex, long sentences.

Others

- When asked, please have written course materials (slides, scripts, notes, etc.) available on time for students with dyslexia to prepare a course.
- Please do not ask students with dyslexia to read a text aloud in class. Dyslexia not only has impact on reading speed but also on the ability to comprehend a text.
- For obligatory internships, your personal engagement to find a suitable position for students with dyslexia will be of great help.

Possible Adjustments in Coursework Assessment

- Deadline extension for written work
- Alternative assessments
- Exams: Writing with text-editing program, extra time, not taking account of orthographic mistakes

For questions and organizational matters, please contact the Disability Office.

Attachment

Process for clarification of individual adjustments

According to paragraph 17 “Studying with Disability” in the regulation of admission at University of Zurich stated below, the impact on study-related activities caused by health problems or impairments will be clarified at the Disability Office.



In complex situations, the lecturers and/or program coordinators concerned will join in the clarification process.

The Disability Office will document the individual adjustments in the form of CIRA¹. Depending on the faculty, either the Disability Office or the student will request for the implementation of adjustments to a responsible person according to each faculty's regulation.

After the proposition has been authorized, the lecturer, the Disability Office or the student him/herself will inform of the accommodations to the responsible person.

The Disability Office will eagerly support in carrying out the measures.

§ 17. Studium und Behinderung

¹ Bei Vorliegen einer ärztlich bescheinigten Behinderung oder chronischen Krankheit (gemäss UNO-Behindertenrechtskonvention, UNO-BRK, Art. 1) ist während des Immatrikulationsverfahrens bei der Beratungsstelle Studium und Behinderung ein Gesuch zur Prüfung der Auswirkung auf studienrelevante Aktivitäten einzureichen.

² Allfällig den Nachteil ausgleichende Massnahmen können nur nach erfolgter Prüfung semesterweise gewährt werden.

Verordnung über die Zulassung zum Studium an der Universität (VZS) vom 18. April 2011

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¹ CIRA stands for "Certificate of Individual Reasonable Accommodation".